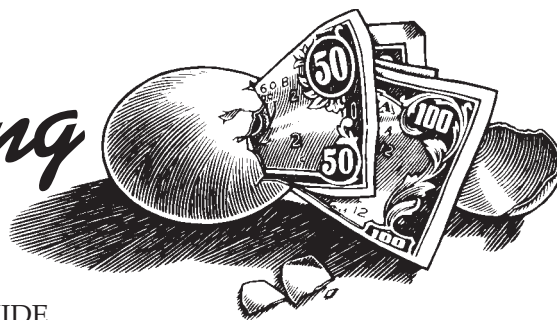


High School Financial Planning Program

STATEWIDE
NEWSBITS



Fall 2006

NDSU Extension Program Continues to Advance Youth Financial Literacy

An overwhelming 92 percent of parents surveyed believe high school students should be required to take a class in practical money management.

The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) are working to make this a reality, according to Debra Pankow, North Dakota State University Extension Service family economics specialist.

"NEFE and CSREES have extended their partnership to continue to promote financial education among America's youth," Pankow says. "With the signing of a new five-year agreement, NEFE and CSREES, the federal partners in the nationwide Cooperative Extension System, begin their 15th year of providing a high school financial planning

program to thousands of schools throughout the U.S."

The financial program is a six-unit curriculum that teaches the basics of money management to young people at a time when they are developing habits and attitudes about money that will influence them for the rest of their lives. The program is available at no cost to high school students.

Last year, 37 North Dakota educators used the program, reaching more than 1,700 students. In early August, two training sessions for educators were conducted in Minot and statewide by videoconference.

If you are interested in upcoming high school financial planning program training opportunities, please contact Pankow at dpankow@ndsuent.nodak.edu or Renee Galster at (701) 231-8113.

N.D. Jump\$tart Coalition Promotes Financial Literacy

America's young adults are leaving schools without the ability to make critical financial decisions affecting their lives. Many are unable to balance a checkbook, and most simply have no insight into the basic survival principles involved with spending, saving and investing.

The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy seeks to improve the personal financial literacy of young adults by promoting their education in personal finance. Because the Jump\$tart Coalition believes young adults must have the financial literacy necessary to make informed financial decisions, it works with local professionals to establish state coalitions. Jump\$tart members say the effectiveness of grass-roots coalitions to promote personal financial literacy cannot be understated.

North Dakota is in the early planning stage of establishing a Jump\$tart Coalition. For more information on Jump\$tart, visit its Web site at www.jumpstart.org. If you are interested in participating in meetings, please contact Julie Kubisiak, director of Student Loans of North Dakota, at jkubisiak@nd.gov.

NDSU
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North Dakota State University

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For more information on this and other topics, see: www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu

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Participate in LifeSmarts, the Ultimate Consumer Challenge

If you've heard about the LifeSmarts program and haven't participated, please try it! If you've previously participated in the program, I hope you will participate again.

The program complements many classes' content and is very beneficial to your students. The content and competition questions focus on five key areas of consumer knowledge that teens need to know to function effectively and confidently in today's marketplace: personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities. It is open to all teens in the ninth through 12th grades. The participation of special-needs students, exchange students, alternative schools, work study groups, home school groups and community organizations is encouraged and welcomed.

LifeSmarts is an education program of the National Consumers League that helps teenagers become better consumers in the marketplace. The program takes place in three phases:

- Online Internet-based competition
- Top-scoring teams advance to the in-person state competition in Bismarck on Feb. 7, 2007. (Twelve teams each consisting of four to five players compete at the state competition.)
- The state champion team advances to the national competition in Orlando, Fla., April 21-24, 2007. Coaches register anytime after May 1 for the following program year.

Once the coach is registered, students may go online to register, take the practice quizzes and

compete. Students can take practice quizzes on their own or you can use part of your class periods for the practice quizzes and eventually for the final online competition. It really doesn't take a lot of your time!

Students can use the LifeSmarts Web site (www.lifesmarts.org) to take the practice quizzes, view their self-study links and other learning resources, and compete in the North Dakota's online competition.

The Coach's Corner is where coaches can register, create teams, check student scores, check the status of a team, retrieve student user names and passwords, and more. To access the Coach's Corner, go to <http://coaches.lifesmarts.org>.

The cost of participating in the online LifeSmarts program is free. The teams that advance to the state competition in Bismarck are responsible for the costs that are incurred to get to the competition. The state champion team also is responsible for airfare and hotel costs to participate in the national competition. One North Dakota LifeSmarts sponsor has been

giving the state's champions \$500 to kick off their fundraising. Also, if there is money available from the North Dakota competition, an additional donation is given to the winning team. We hope these donations will continue to be given to the North Dakota champion team. The LifeSmarts program is hosted by the North Dakota attorney general's office and is run solely on contributions from North Dakota businesses.

No one is a loser when participating in the LifeSmarts program. Even if your team does not advance to the state competition, your students are winners because they have gained knowledge that will help make them better consumers. LifeSmarts is fun, challenging and exciting. We hope you will get involved!

Please contact me if you have any questions or if you would like me to mail a LifeSmarts brochure to you.

Joan Mork
(800) 472-2600 – toll free
(701) 328-5569 – direct number
jmork@nd.gov

Financial Literacy Education

Resources for educators

Funded by NEFE (National Endowment for Financial Education) High School Financial Planning Program, McGraw-Hill (Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy) and Excellence in Economic Education (U.S. Department of Education) grants.

www.ag.ndsu.edu/money/news/hsfpp.htm

www.ag.ndsu.edu/money/financial_ed/lessons.htm



Invest North Dakota Prepares Students for Their Financial Futures

More than 100 elementary and secondary teachers attended the 11th annual Invest North Dakota Teachers Academy, sponsored by the North Dakota Securities Department, July 17-21 at the University of Mary in Bismarck.

The purpose of the academy is to assist teachers in presenting personal finance in the classroom, resulting in better educated consumers making good financial choices.

Teachers were introduced to innovative curriculum tools that will assist in curriculum planning. They also heard from approximately 20 business, education and professional leaders on topics relating to personal finance.

"National surveys continue to show that today's high school seniors are graduating with failing grades when it comes to managing money, including handling credit cards, paying taxes and even saving for the future," said Diane Kambeitz, investor education coordinator with the North Dakota Securities Department. "The key to changing this trend is to introduce personal finance in the classroom at an early age, and continue to build on that curriculum throughout the upper grades. We will then begin to see our young people better equipped to take charge of their financial futures, including saving and investing wisely."

More than 1,500 teachers have attended Invest North Dakota during the program's 11 years.

NDBA Resources: Bankers Teach Money Skills

Helping high school students take charge of their future is the key to their personal and professional success. The process begins with education, and the North Dakota Bankers Association (NDBA) offers many resources.

Across the state, bankers work with educators and community groups to teach personal financial management skills. Topics range from checking account management to entrepreneurship, and from currency printing to careers in banking. The NDBA has educational materials, including videos, brochures, workbooks, lesson plans, activity ideas and promotional items.

A list of NDBA's consumer education resources is at www.ndba.com/education/consumer_education/education_programs.asp.

One of the newest offerings is 21st Century Money Management, a collection of 30-minute videos geared toward grades nine through 12. This five-video collection is packed with information about banking in the new millennium. Special focus is on online banking functions and resources. Classroom activities are included with each video, and each activity is self-contained so you may use them all or choose only those that best fit your needs. Produced in 2005, these up-to-date, modern videos include interviews and interaction with real high school students.

Listed below is just some of what is covered in each video:

- Checking accounts – Covers the basics of choosing and opening an account as well as managing accounts
- Saving – Savings plans, types of accounts, opening accounts
- Credit cards – Applying for cards, the dangers of credit card debt and making good decisions
- Loans – How loans work, purchasing with loans, avoiding bankruptcy and credit history
- Financial planning – How students can use bank accounts and credit to reach their short- and long-term goals

Dorothy Lick, senior vice president of education at NDBA, is the statewide coordinator for NDBA's consumer education program. For information on more resources or to connect with a local banker, call Lick at (701) 223-5303.

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Need help teaching financial literacy?

N.D. Credit Union Offers Resources

The North Dakota Credit Union League Classroom Speakers Bureau consists of a group of credit union professionals from throughout the state committed to youth financial education and the growth of financial literacy. These individuals are willing to conduct classroom presentations on a variety of money management and related topics to various age groups at no cost to you.

Simply log onto www.ndcu.coop and click on Educator Information.

From there, you will be able to search our database of presenters by grade level or topic.

A list of available presenters matching your requirements will appear, along with their credit union affiliation. Just contact the credit union to schedule a presentation for your students.

**Help your students become successful later in life by
providing them with the necessary financial skills.**